

Message Text

SECRET

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:ARLAY:SKG

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

NEA:ALATHERTONJR

P:PCHABIB

S/S-O:DLMACK

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 180073

NODIS

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM SECRETARY

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG US

SUBJECT: RETURN OF AMBASSADOR MURPHY FOR CONSULTATIONS

1. YOU SHOULD TELL FAHMY THAT
PRIOR TO YOUR TALK WITH HIM WE HAD ASKED DICK MURPHY TO
RETURN TO WASHINGTON ON CONSULTATIONS THIS COMING WEEKEND.
I WILL WANT TO GET FROM HIM THE CLEAREST POSSIBLE PICTURE OF
THE SITUATION AS THE SYRIANS THEMSELVES SEE IT,
AND HAD THEREFORE ASKED HIM TO SEEK A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT

ASAD.

2. YOU SHOULD ALSO CONVEY THE FOLLOWING POINTS IN RESPONSE
TO THE POINTS MADE BY FAHMY AND REPORTED IN PARA 6 OF YOUR
9757:

--WE HAVE NEVER RELIED ON HUSSEIN AS A SOLE COMMUNICATION
CHANNEL TO ASAD, BUT ON THE OTHER HAND WE WELCOME INFORMA-
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TION OF CONSEQUENCE THAT IS PASSED TO US THROUGH ANY CHANNEL.

THE INITIATIVE IN THIS CASE APPARENTLY CAME FROM ASAD. WE WILL NOW BE GETTING IN TOUCH DIRECTLY WITH THE SYRIANS ABOUT THE PROBLEM OF WHICH HUSSEIN SPOKE TO US, BUT WANTED THE EGYPTIANS TO KNOW THE ESSENCE OF WHAT WE HAD BEEN TOLD IMMEDIATELY AFTER WE HAD HEARD IT FROM HUSSEIN. WE AGREE THAT THE QUESTIONS FAHMY POSES ARE IMPORTANT AND HAVE EVERY INTENTION OF PURSUING THEM WITH THE SYRIANS.

-- WE WILL OF COURSE BE COORDINATING WITH OUR EGYPTIAN FRIENDS AS WE LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SITUATION. WE EXPECT TO BE IN TOUCH AFTER I HAVE HAD THE CHANCE TO TALK WITH AMBASSADOR MURPHY EARLY NEXT WEEK. MY MESSAGE TO FAHMY OF JULY 19 REFLECTED MY INTENTION TO STAY IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE EGYPTIANS FROM THE BEGINNING ON THIS QUESTION.

-- THE QUESTION OF QUOTE RUBBER STAMPING UNQUOTE SYRIAN ACTIVITY IN LEBANON IS REALLY NOT THE ISSUE, AS WE SEE IT. WE HAVE NEVER RUBBER STAMPED ASAD'S LEBANESE POLICY AND HAVE IN FACT CONSISTENTLY WARNED HIM AGAINST THE MILITARY ASPECTS OF IT. WHAT WE ARE CONCERNED WITH NOW IS AN APPARENT SOVIET POWER PLAY TO ASSERT MOSCOW'S INFLUENCE AND EVEN CONTROL IN THE LEBANESE SITUATION, A DEVELOPMENT THAT WE ARE CONFIDENT WOULD BE SEEN BY THE EGYPTIANS AS WELL AS BY OURSELVES AS HAVING THE GRAVEST CONSEQUENCES FOR THE MIDDLE EAST GENERALLY. WE FULLY APPRECIATE THE OPPOSITION THAT PRESIDENT SADAT HAS SHOWN TO SOVIET ENCROACHMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST (THOUGH I WOULD ARGUE VIGOROUSLY WITH ISMAIL ABOUT HIS ASSERTION THAT THE US HAS DONE NOTHING MEANINGFUL IN THIS RESPECT) AND INDEED THIS WAS ONE OF THE REASONS THAT WE WERE ANXIOUS TO BE IN TOUCH WITH THE EGYPTIANS IMMEDIATELY ABOUT THIS NEW SOVIET MOVE. KISSINGER

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NNN

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